Appointment of permanent CMD for GAIL

287. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CVC seeks action against GAIL acting Chief" in the Times of India dated 1st June, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether a permanent CMD has been appointed so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The vigilance status in respect of Shri J.K. Jain is in correspondence with the CVC and the same is yet to be settled.

(c) No permanent CMD has been appointed so far.

Smuggling of Petroleum Products into the Country

288. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of petroleum products are smuggled into the country;

(b) if so, the total quantity of these products coming into the country and the source of the areas from where they are smuggled;

(c) what action is being taken to check this smuggling; and

(d) whether this channel of products affect the local distribution system and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil Pool Deficit

289. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present oil pool deficit; and

(b) the corrective measures taken to check the deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The oil pool deficit is estimated to be around Rs. 12,600 crore as on 31-3-2001.

(b) To check the oil pool deficit, Government take various corrective measures which *inter alia,* include corrections in the consumer prices of petroleum products, adjustment in rates of duties, etc.

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

290. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled "Indo-Iran offer Pak peace Pipeline" which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi dated the 14th June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the Pipeline from Iran to India *via* Pakistan;

(c) the names of the companies who are involved in the 700 kilometer pipeline which would run through Pakistan;

(d) whether any discussion has been held with the Pakistan Government on this account and if so the details of the discussions; and